

The Daily Astorian

Astoria, Oregon, Saturday Morning, October 1, 1881.

No. 1.

FROM THE FAR NORTH.

A PROBABLE ARCTIC CONTINENT—CRUISE OF THE CORWIN.

The American whale bark *Legal Tender*, Capt. Fisher commanding, brings news of Corwin and her movements, furnished by Capt. Hooper of the latter vessel. Capt. Hooper said he intended hurrying on to the new coal mines discovered along the Arctic coast, just north of Cape Lisburne, and just below Cape Sabine, where he intended coaling his ship, as he had done twice before. This coal is easily mined, and as the coal-seams trend under the sea, in the direction of Wrangel Land, there is no doubt that the weather-beaten coal, washed up along the coast, for twenty miles or more. It burns well and like a comparatively little smoke or unpleasant gas. It is bright-looking, solid, and breaks into cubes of various sizes. After coaling, the *Corwin* was to proceed westward, to again visit the coast of Wrangel Land, hoping there to meet and communicate with the United States exploring steamer *Rodgers*, Lieut. Berry, which they then had no tidings of, but which we have since learned by the arrival of the Russian fleet, had arrived at Petropavlovsk, in Kamchatka, on the Russian-Siberian coast, on the 9th of July. Capt. Fisher is of the opinion that what we term **Wrangel Land is a Continent**. Extending far northward toward the pole, and he understood Capt. Hooper to express this surmise, as his opinion also. On the 30th of July, the *Corwin* landed a boat's crew on Herald island. In the years 1848-49 Capt. Kellett, of the British ship *Herald*, discovered and named Herald island, which he then supposed to be a part of the land described by Wrangel as a Tchutchi chief, but which Ferdinand Wrangel, the famous Russian explorer, never saw. After his expedition of 1820-24 he communicated the first knowledge of the existence of this land to the civilized world, as "extensive high land," of which he had simply heard from the Siberian islanders. Capt. Thomas Long, in the American whale bark *Nellie*, first actually discovered and sketched the entire southern coast of Wrangel Land on the 14th, 15th and 16th of August, 1867. He then named it Wrangel Land, but was unable to land upon it, for he did not feel warranted in taking his vessel through the ice-pack along the shore. He discovered the crater since named Mount Long, and many whalers that season, sighted what have since been named the Kellett mountains. The party from the U. S. steamer *Thomas Corwin*, landed on Herald island July 30, 1881, and found it almost barren granite rock. With rugged cliffs and exceedingly steep sides. After a most laborious climb they reached the summit, and from the top of the island saw distinctly the coast of Wrangel Land, bearing from the centre of Herald island, southwest at an extremity, and west by north on the other. The island appeared less than five miles long, by one mile and a half at its broadest part, and is the resort of myriads of sea-fowl, which cover every available perch on the granite ledges. A cairn of stones about six feet high was piled up around an hermetically sealed bottle, containing a notice of the *Corwin's* visit, and a copy of the *New York Herald*. This was at a height estimated to be 1,300 feet above the sea-level. In the crev-

ices of the rocks was found a limited variety of lichens.

Arctic Flora.

Such as anemones, saxifrage, and a few lichens and mosses. Below, a small cascade fell some two hundred feet, evidently the result of melting glaciers. A white Polar bear was shot on the island, August 4th. The lower yard of a ship was picked up, adrift on the way to Cape North on the Siberian coast. After exploring this region as far as Wankarem river, without finding any further evidences of the missing whalers, but meeting flocks of ducks extending many miles in length, the *Corwin* again steered northward for the southern shore of Wrangel Land. When close in near the shore the steamer threaded her way cautiously through narrow ice-leads in the pack and finally landed a party on the beach of a country, which it is believed by every whaler and Arctic trader that no foot of any civilized human being was ever before set. The country was taken possession of by Capt. C. L. Hooper, of the United States steamer *Thomas Corwin*, August 12, 1881, in the name of the United States of America, and a staff was erected from which was displayed the National flag, under a National salute from the guns of the steamer. At this spot a very rapidly-flowing river,

About 300 feet wide and two and a half fathoms deep, empties into the ocean between slate and sandstone cliffs. The soil was of a soft clay, imbedded in which were dark-colored pebbles, and some little pieces of quartz. Birds, bears and foxes were seen, but no human beings nor any traces of the Jeanette. Capt. Hooper is preparing charts of the new land. Some portions of the ship are nearly twenty-five miles further north than in the present charts. Capt. Fisher says that in 1867, the year when Capt. Thomas Long first sighted and reported Wrangel Land, he was in the Arctic engaged in whaling, and well remembers the circumstances. It made a great excitement among the whalers, most of whom stood over, and sighted it. He says he went within a mile of Plover cape at that time, which looked like a pyramid not over a mile in circumference. It was a very smooth day, and some of the people thought Plover cape stood up like a

Lake and Island.

Although they could not pass to the westward of it on account of ice. Probably this ice was anchored there by either a shoal, or being piled up on a low neck of land like a sand spit running off from the shore. That season was very open, much like the present one, and he then went within six or seven miles of the eastern shore of Wrangel Land, in the bark *Awashonsk*. The whole whaling fleet flocked over to see it at that time, and no one ever heard of its having been seen before. He has seen it himself, and of many whaling captains, officers and men with whom he had conversed, that not one of them believed for an instant that there is any truth whatever in the alleged claim of Captain E. Dallmann, of the Hawaiian schooner *William C. Talbot*, to having landed twice on Wrangel Land, on the 17th and 18th of August, 1866. Captain Fisher knows Captain Dallmann very well, and cannot understand why he should put forth so absurd a claim at this late day, for he says, had he landed—as he would have us believe—every whaler in the Arctic

most emphatically, that Dallmann never could have landed there; he was sure he never did. A careful examination of his statement shows his claim to be made up from existing charts, which are erroneous, and many facts, he alleges, are proved by recent surveys to be untrue, any one of which are sufficient to condemn his statement as exceedingly doubtful, at best. His track, which he claims he sailed over, would carry his vessel twenty-five or thirty miles across the land. So many separate items of his claim have been proved to be false that little doubt can exist in the mind of any one, that Captain Dallmann's entire claim must be considered as spurious. Captain Fisher states that this year he found the season in the Arctic the most open which had been known for many long years. The past winter was very mild indeed, and the Arctic basin is reported to have been comparatively free of ice for January and February. The season opened very early indeed. Whalers seldom expect to get past Ice cape before August 15th, but this year, that part of the Arctic was clear of ice quite early, and August 15th, he saw seventy-five miles of

Clear Water North of Ice Cape.

The ice-barrier was over twenty miles north of Point Barrow, and disappearing northward farther and farther every day. The season has been so very open, that he entertains no doubt that the United States steamer *Rodgers* will accomplish much this year, and make a good record for herself and officers. They will have a splendid time, with an open sea stretching far north, and can readily follow the coast of Wrangel Land northward for a long distance. When the *Legal Tender* left the Arctic, the entire whaling fleet, with one exception, were off Point Barrow, many having been east fifteen to twenty miles east of there. The new American steam whaler *Beldridge* had gone much farther to the eastward of Point Barrow, intending to reach Mackenzie river, about 450 miles further east, along the northern coast of America. The schooner *Golden Fleece*, having on board Lieut. P. H. Ray, U. S. A., and party, bound to Point Barrow, to found a United States signal station and observatory, will have no difficulty in speedily reaching their proposed location.

The Bark Legal Tender.

Sailed from San Francisco, June 19, and took as passengers Messrs. Krause Brothers, two scientific gentlemen sent out by the Bremen Geographical society to make land explorations in northern Siberia. They were landed at Saint Lawrence bay, whence, after remaining there two weeks, they will proceed to East cape and to the Diomed Islands; thence returning to Saint Lawrence bay they will work their way down the Siberian coast to Plover bay, whence they hope to embark for San Francisco about October 1st. They took provisions sufficient to last until November 1st and plenty of ammunition, in a country actually crowded with game of many kinds. The United States revenue steamer *Richard Rush* had not been reported at Point Barrow, but was understood to be somewhere on the coast, looking after the small trading schooners engaged in selling run to the natives. Every whaling captain is delighted to have the government act so energetically in enforcing that humane law which forbids the sale of liquors to the Indians. An Indian who has once been intoxicated seems disposed to neglect every

thing to renew the strange sensation. Many families and whole towns are thus suffered to die of starvation from consequent improvidence, at the time when winter stores of blubber should be laid in. The W. C. Talbot, which Capt. Dallmann commanded, was one of these.

Contraband Whiskey Traders.

Fitted out at Honolulu and owned by J. C. Pflueger, of H. Hackfeld & Co., a firm which have a branch in Bremen. From the Arctic to this port the *Legal Tender* had good winds, but the weather was rainy, squally and bad, which is unusual as an accompaniment of westerly and northwesterly winds. The *Corwin* expected to leave the Arctic about September 15th, and after making a short stop at Oun-alaska, would steam directly to San Francisco, hoping to reach here from the 1st to the 10th of October. Capt. Fisher says that Dr. Dall has made a sad error in his reports regarding the current in Behring strait. All summer long a strong current sets northward through this strait, and it is only in September or October that strong northerly winds affect it. He has himself been swept many miles northward in October. Dall's observations extended only over a few days, and were in an eddy current, under the lee of the Diomedes. Off Point Barrow a three or four-knot current sets regularly along the land northward, which does not extend fifty miles off shore. In 1872 the *Sea Breeze*, while becalmed, drifted twenty miles off shore, drifting out of sight.

The Natives of Point Barrow.

Would furnish nothing to eat to the crew of the American bark *Daniel Webster*, which got caught in the ice-pack July 3d. The crew escaped and the vessel sunk in fifteen minutes. One man died ashore from exhaustion. At Point Belcher they got all they required from the natives who were very friendly. There is another native settlement at Cape Smith, and at Refuge inlet, each of which consists of 300 or 400 persons. Natives in the Arctic are very useful to whalers, in cases of emergency, and the Government is very wise to protect them from injury. The crew of the *Daniel Webster* was distributed as follows: Her captain is on the schooner *L. N. Bender*, which sailed from Point Barrow for San Francisco August 9th, and is fully decked her mate shipped on the whaler John Howard, 15 or 20 of the crew were distributed among the whale ships, and 10 or 15 are aboard the *Corwin*, due here about October 10th.

Despatches from Lieut. Berry.

The following despatch from Lieut. R. M. Berry, U. S. N., commanding the U. S. Arctic *Rodgers*, is addressed to the Hon. Secretary of the Navy, and published in the *Alta* by permission: PETROPOLYVSKI, July 24, 1881. Sir: I have the honor to inform the department of the arrival at this port, at 7:30 p. m. on July 9th, of this vessel, just 33 days from San Francisco, Cal. The health of the officers and crew is excellent. I found in port the Russian corvette *Strelchik*, which had arrived a few days previous from Vladivostok. Her commanding officer, Capt. A. De Lyon, informed me that just before sailing he received a telegram from his government, directing him to offer me any services within his power, which he has done by offering the use of his men, and assisting me to obtain information of the natives north of here. He purposes going as far north as Cape Seidze, and bringing back a mail from us there. I have

succeeded in obtaining 25 reindeer suits, and have taken on board 44 dogs and a native from here as a driver. I could obtain very little dried fish for dog food, as the salmon are not yet dried, but hope to get the remainder further north. I shall sail for Saint Michael's this morning. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. M. BERRY, Commanding.

Pictures by Telegraph.

It is certainly a fact that, by a recent invention, pictures of all kinds can now be sent by telegraph. Colors cannot be transmitted, but all pictures which result from combinations of light and shade, such as photographs, steel engravings, wood-cut prints, India-ink sketches, pen sketches and crayon pictures are reproduced in five minutes, at a distance of 100 miles, with astonishing accuracy. Checks have been so faithfully copied by this process, that the copy has been honored at the bank without a question. New York newspapers have been reproduced in Philadelphia entire—the image being sent by telegraph, and every faintest dot and dash brought out on paper. We should be glad to tell our readers exactly how this is done, but it is by a chemical process so complicated as to defy explanation in ordinary terms. Nature, the recognized authority in science in England, comes as near as possible, perhaps, when it says: "In the transmitter the image was focused on a revolving cylinder to which a selenium cell is attached. At the other end of the wire, a platinum point presses against the surface of sensitive paper, prepared by passing it through a strong solution of equal parts of iodide of potassium and water. The arrangement is such that the selenium cell, by intercepting the current, causes a white spot to appear on the receiver, corresponding in shape and size to the picture focused on the transmitting cylinder. The experiments are as yet crude, but full of promise." This is not quite intelligent to the average reader, because the facts of the case call for scientific terms, and cannot be expressed in popular phraseology. But the important fact is that the pictures are sent; that photographs are admirably reproduced at a distance; and that, if the promise of the invention is fulfilled, a New York paper will soon be reprinted in Chicago on the very day, and perhaps the very hour, of issue. So much that is incredible has been made a fact during the last half century, that he must be a bold man who ventures to place a boundary to the possible achievements of scientific ingenuity in this wonderful age.

Petruvian Bitters.

The Count Cinechona was the Spanish Viceroy in Peru in 1620. The Count's wife was prostrated by an intermittent fever, from which she was freed by the use of the native remedy, the Peruvian bark, or, as it was called in the language of the country, "Quinquina." Grateful for her recovery, on her return to Europe in 1622, she introduced the remedy into Spain, where it was known under various names, until Linnaeus called it Cinechona, in honor of the lady who had freed her from the fever which was her scourge. The powerful tonic virtue of the Cinechona is preserved in a pure, and of the best quality. A trial will satisfy you that this is the best bitter in the world. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," and we willingly abide this test. For sale by all druggists, grocers and liquor dealers. Order by—Charles Grafke has always on hand No. 1 XXX Premium Ale and first premium Lager Beer from the Albany Brewery, San Francisco, at his saloon on the Broadway. B. 777.

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